

Town of Groton - Public Works

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Meeting Minutes (Long)

Thursday, August 15, 2013

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

Permanent School Building Committee

*Chairman Rick DeMatto, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, Michael Doyle,
Robert K. Frink, Richard Monteiro and David Russell*

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Rick DeMatto, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, Robert K. Frink and David Russell

Members Absent: Michael Doyle and Richard Monteiro

Staff: William Robarge, Director of School Buildings and Grounds, GPS.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

2. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Three members of the Robert E. Fitch High School Robotics Team, the Aluminum Falcons spoke to the PSBC and presented a copy of a letter to the Groton Board of Education dated August 10, 2013 along with a copy of a petition to the Board of the same date. The individuals were Josh Miller (Rhode Island) Lead Mentor/Driver Coach; Austin Russell (Groton) student and Elizabeth Nado (Groton) parent. The group sought support from the Committee regarding its request to use portions of the former Fitch Middle School for training, building and practicing competition robots.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) June 20, 2013

A motion was made by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. LaFrance to accept the minutes of June 20, 2013 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS (other than Subcommittee reports)

(a) PSBC Members

Chairman DeMatto introduced Allen Gaudet to the PSBC members. Mr. Gaudet has been nominated by the Republican Town Committee to replace Dan Campbell. Mr. Gaudet reviewed his experience in the building industry and explained why he was interested in being a committee member.

(b) Staff

Mr. Robarge reported that the original 500 leaks in the high school's roof and windows have been reduced to 26 leaks. The Committee expressed great frustration over this five year old situation and asked Mr. Robarge to convey this to the group dealing with this issue. He will share the Board of Education request for more information response with the Committee at the next meeting.

5. RECEIPT OF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. BOE Projects

None.

B. Staff

Chairman DeMatto asked Mr. Robarge to update the Committee regarding the latest activities of the School Initiative Task Force as he missed the last meeting. The Task Force is waiting for a confirmation of the proposed recommendation of building one new middle school, closing three elementary buildings and converting the two current middle schools into elementary schools.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman DeMatto shared a draft of the proposed Introduction of the PSBC Rules and Responsibilities document and ask for input and suggestions. He will discuss with Mark Oefinger and Heather Bond Somers when it would be appropriate to bring it before the Town Council.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Robert Frink made the following motion which was seconded by Robert Austin LaFrance; The PSBC supports the Robert E. Fitch High School Robotics Team in its efforts of finding a permanent and adequate space to conduct its program. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman of the PSBC was informed a few hours before tonight's meeting that there will no longer be secretarial support for the Committee. Robert Frink volunteered to take the minutes at future meetings. He and Rick DeMatto will work together to establish the creation and distribution of agendas.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm and the next meeting will be held on September 19, 2013.